

I thank you for the opportunity to comment, and wish you the very best in your deliberations. With best regards, I am.

Very truly yours,

PERRY B. NEWMAN,
*Director of International Trade,
State of Maine and,
President, Maine
International Trade
Center.*

UNUM CORPORATION,
Portland, ME, October 30, 1997.

Senator SUSAN M. COLLINS,
Russell Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SUSAN: Earlier this year, Unum communicated support for passage of fast track trade negotiating legislation. As this issue moves forward in Congress, I wanted to write and reiterate our support for passage of this legislation.

Opening foreign markets has been critical for Unum in several of our recent international expansions. Currently, Unum has operations in the United Kingdom, Japan, Argentina, Bermuda, France, and Germany, along with the United States and Canada.

We will continue to expand internationally as opportunities present themselves. However, we have found that it is imperative that our government be able to negotiate aggressively with our trading partners in order to get the fair and open access that we need to be competitive. Fast track legislation gives our government the ability to negotiate these kinds of trade agreements. As you weigh the facts on this issue, I think you will see that this legislation is a necessary tool for our government to be successful in negotiating with foreign governments.

If you would like any additional information about Unum's international operations, I would be more than happy to provide it. As fast track legislation is considered by the Senate, I urge your support.

Sincerely,

BRIAN K. ATCHINSON,
2nd Vice President, External Affairs.

PRATT & WHITNEY,
North Berwick, ME, October 31, 1997.
Senator SUSAN M. COLLINS,
*Senate Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: The president's authority to negotiate any major trade agreement has lapsed and must be authorized by Congress. I am writing to tell you why it is important to the people at Pratt & Whitney's North Berwick plant, and United Technologies, to pass legislation known as "fast track" authority this year.

Pratt & Whitney's business success in the U.S. depends to a significant degree on our ability to sell our products in markets abroad. Our government's negotiators need fast track authority to open markets, reduce tariffs and eliminate trade barriers to U.S. products. Negotiators will not be taken seriously if it is perceived that they do not have the authority to conclude an agreement.

Fast track is not a new concept, and it does not result in us "rushing into trade agreements". It has been a procedure used since 1974 and has been renewed many times by Congress. Fast track does not remove Congress' involvement in trade agreements because the legislation includes specific negotiating objectives and a consultation mechanism whereby the president is obligated to consult with Congress during the negotiating of trade agreements. All fast track ensures is that once an agreement is reached, with congressional permission and consultation, it will not be amended after it is signed.

Why is fast track important to our economy? Because trade creates and supports

jobs in the U.S. and in Maine. The opponents of fast track would have us halt our participation in the global economy. That approach is the greatest threat to jobs in the U.S., especially for companies like United Technologies that export over \$3 billion per year. We need fast track to stay competitive, and maintain a strong economy.

I urge you to press for speedy consideration of the fast track legislation in Congress this year.

Sincerely,

R. E. PONCHAK,
General Manager.

ABB ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.,
Portland, ME, October 7, 1997.

Hon. SUSAN M. COLLINS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: On behalf of ABB Inc., I am writing to urge you to support renewing fast track authority for the President. More than one third of the economic growth and nearly 40 percent of the new jobs created since 1993 are based on exports. Since only 4 percent of the world's consumers reside in the U.S., future growth and job creation will rely heavily on exports and the ability of the U.S. to access global markets. In order for the U.S. to be able to eliminate trade barriers and thus open foreign markets to U.S. goods and services, the President must have the proper authority to negotiate trade agreements from a position of strength, where the U.S. will be able to maintain its place as a world economic leader. Fast track will provide the President with this authority.

Fast track authority is especially important to ABB Inc. Our operations in the U.S. are becoming increasingly reliant on exports. So far, ABB's exports in 1997 have grown over 40 percent. The ability to gain greater access to markets all over the world and especially in Latin America and Asia is vital to the well-being of our company and employees. Fast track authority will ensure that ABB's interests abroad, as well as those of other U.S. companies, will be preserved.

Every President since 1974 has had fast track trade negotiating authority. Without fast track, the U.S. will be at a competitive disadvantage by permitting other countries to gain preferential market treatment at the expense of the American worker. Since fast track authority expired in 1994, more than twenty trade expansion agreements have been negotiated without the U.S.

Once again, I am requesting that you endorse fast track negotiating authority for the President. Please help support a strong American economy and jobs for the future by supporting fast track.

Sincerely,

DAVID P. CSINTYAN,
Office Manager.

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROTH. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business until 1 p.m. with Senators per-

mitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS TO S. 1269

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, at this moment I am filing at the desk four amendments that at the appropriate time I would make efforts to attach to S. 1269, the fast-track legislation.

The chairman is on the floor and I would provide him with a packet of information as it relates to these amendments. None of us yet know the fate of fast track or if the House will be able to engender the necessary votes to pass this legislation.

Clearly, I think the proper refinement of fast track broadens its ability to be passed and to become law, and it becomes very important to all of us, if that is the case, that it does. I have reservations about giving the President this authority, and yet at the same time I have not stood in the way that the process be expedited to get it to the floor for a vote. But the amendments that I am filing this afternoon that I think are important are a product of the frustrations that American producers have experienced as a result of the mid-1980's North American Canadian Free-Trade Agreement and then, of course, NAFTA, the North American Free-Trade Agreement in the early 1990's.

One of my amendments deals with the commodity problems that we have primarily in agriculture but also in the forest products industry between Canada and the United States. The flow of commodity interest is largely one way at this moment, from Canada into the United States—live cattle impacting our markets, grain bypassing through the Canadian Grain Board, the protocol of the North American Free-Trade Agreement. We have just had disputes with Canada over poultry and dairy products. We now see a flood of potatoes coming out of Canada, potatoes last year that depressed the United States producer price to almost a historic low level, putting farmers in Idaho, Washington, and Maine in jeopardy.

As a result of that, one of my amendments would establish a bilateral joint commission to identify and recommend means of resolving national regional and provincial trading or trade distortions and differences between the United States and Canada with respect to the production, processing and sales of agricultural commodities. I have explained the reason why, and if we get